

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant rewrites claims 2, 7, 12, 17, and 19 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 18, respectively, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant also cancels claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, and 18 without any prejudice and disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 19 remain pending.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 19 as dependent upon a rejected base claims, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,081,299 to Kesselring (“Kesselring”) and rejected claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,282,209 to Kataoka (“Kataoka”) in view of Kesselring.¹

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 19. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections under both § 102 and 103. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, and 18. The Section 102 rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14-16, and 18 and the Section 103 rejection of claims 5 and 10 are therefore moot.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

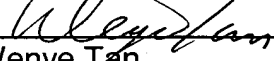
Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 7, 12, 17, and 19 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claims 1, 6, 11, 16, and 18, respectively, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 2, 7, 12, 17, and 19 are therefore in condition for allowance. Because claims 3, 8, and 13 depend from claims 2, 7, and 12, respectively, claims 3, 8, and 13 are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 19, and a timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 29, 2005

By: 
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